

an experiment; but we doubt the accuracy of this narration, and we should want to hear the subject of such an experiment really sing before believing that the syrinx is the seat of tone production. It would be enormously difficult to keep a bird alive after such an operation, to say nothing as to its regaining a condition of full health, or a condition in which it would feel like singing. A mere production of audible sound from the inferior larynx would not be accepted as the song tones of the bird. Man can produce a tone by the vibrations of the lips, but the vocal ligaments are the voice phonators for all that. The syrinx of a bird may be able to make a noise, but that does not prove that the superior larynx has nothing to do in the formation of the song of birds. However, we are open to conviction, and would gladly be set right by proof positive that our opinion as to this matter is wrong.

NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

BY W. W. COOKE.

DURING the progress of my studies of migration, I have been in correspondence with most of the active ornithologists in the Mississippi Valley. Among the notes they have contributed are some which seem worthy of being put on record. They may not all of them be first records for their section of country, but the occurrences are at places remote enough from the ordinary habitat to be worthy of note.

Hawk Owl in Northeastern Mississippi.—Among a list of birds occurring at Corinth, Miss., sent me by Dr. Rawlings Young, was the name of the Hawk Owl (*Surnia funerea*). Upon asking for the particulars of its capture, I received the following letter:—

"In reply to your question, I would say that I have never heard of but one being killed near here and that I shot myself. In 1882 I was shooting Quail over a brace of setters in thick sedge grass, three or four hundred yards from the timber, and while working up a scattered bevy the dogs pointed. Walking in, the Hawk Owl, much to my astonishment, got up from the grass, right under the dogs' noses. As he went off I cut him down and had no trouble in identifying him from the cuts seen in Wilson."

Abundance of Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola helvetica*) in Eastern Nebraska.—In the bird list sent by F. Powell, Alda, Neb., occurs the item: "Black-bellied Plover, usually rare, but May 21, 1883, I saw thousands of them on the Platte River." In reply to further questions he writes: "The weather had been rainy for a few days before I saw the Black-bellied Plover, with the wind from the south, but on that day the wind blew stiff from the north, with broken clouds flying and the air pretty cold. The birds were on the hay flats on the south side of the river. I drove up the valley seven or eight miles and was not out of sight of large flocks any of the time. They were very wild and I only killed three."

Perissoglossa tigrina in Nebraska.—The same observer also states: "On May 12, 1883, I took a Cape May Warbler, an old male in good plumage. A few days later, I thought I saw three more, but had no gun with me."

Protonotaria citrea in Wisconsin.—In Dr. P. L. Hatch's 1880 list of Minnesota birds this Warbler is not given, nor can I find any Wisconsin record. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I am able to record that Dr. J. C. Havoslef of Lanesboro, in Southeastern Minnesota, shot one on Aug. 16, 1874, near the mouth of the Root River, on the Wisconsin bank of the Mississippi.

Lark Bunting in Southeastern Minnesota.—In the same list of Minnesota birds *Calamospiza bicolor* is given as occurring in the northeastern part of the State. Since then it has been found—whether accidentally or not remains to be seen—in the southeastern part. Dr. Havoslef sends the following particulars: "Saw one, a magnificent male, on the very high prairie seven miles north of Lanesboro, June 19, 1883. It was not at all wary, so that I very easily got within a few yards of it, and could even see the peculiar shape of the bill. My shot, however, was not successful, as the weapon was only a small pistol, and the wind was blowing a gale. Business prevented my returning with a shot gun." This spring he writes me that "May 11, on the high prairie, nine miles east of Lanesboro, I again saw a *Calamospiza bicolor*; there was only one and it was wild, while the one I saw a year ago was quite the reverse."

Junco aikenii in the Indian Territory, Kansas, and Wisconsin.—While standing at the window of my house in Caddo, Ind. Ter., which is in the southeastern part, about thirty miles from the Texas line, my attention was drawn to a small party of Fringillidæ in the yard, about fifteen feet from me. There were half a dozen Tree Sparrows, a few Juncos, and a stray *Passerculus*, but what attracted my attention was one of the Juncos. It was slightly larger than the others, much darker, and across its wings stretched two broad bands of white. I had heard and read of the White-winged Snowbird, but had never seen one. As I watched it intently it spread its tail and revealed at least four feathers entirely white, and apparently white spots on four more. Turning now to the others I found that one very dusky individual had faint wing-bars and the extra white tail feathers. The moment I started for a gun the whole party left. On men-

tioning the fact to my wife, she told me she had also noticed one in the forenoon, but knew not that it was of special interest. This was Feb. 14, 1884. The next day I examined over fifty individuals of Junco but never a wing-bar was visible. Under Feb. 21. I find the following entry in my diary: "At 8.30 A. M. I shot in my yard a White-winged Snowbird. It is in worn plumage, but appears to be a typical bird; both wing-bars show plainly, the tail has two feathers on each side pure white. and the third one more than half white. It was in company with a second which appeared to be in brighter plumage. This makes five specimens seen, two bright and three dull ones. They were each time associated with a party of Tree Sparrows that has stayed around my premises all winter, so that there may have been but two individuals and the same ones seen several times." On March 7 a single one was seen. This completes the record for Caddo.

Late in the winter a box of skins arrived from Wisconsin which I had prepared the previous spring. On comparing my new Snowbird with the old ones, I was not a little surprised to find among them its counterpart. This second specimen bore a tag which showed its history to be as follows. The morning of Jan. 14, 1883, it was found alive in my woodshed at Jefferson, Wis., in the southern part of the State. It was kept alive three days, and when it died its skin was saved. Both specimens are still in my possession.

This species was originally described by Mr. Aiken in 1872, from specimens taken in the mountains of Colorado, where the species is abundant. Three years later it was taken at Ellis, in Western Kansas, by Dr. L. Watson. It has been found nowhere else. The past winter Dr. Watson again found the species in the same locality, so that it may be considered a regular winter visitant to Western Kansas, but its occurrence in the Indian Territory, and especially in Wisconsin, is probably fortuitous.

THE NESTING HABITS OF THE CAPE MAY WARBLER (*DENDRÆCA TIGRINA*).

BY MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.

My first acquaintance with the Cape May Warbler in its home was made during the summer of 1882, when our party secured several specimens in the heavy woods back of Edmundston, near the northern boundary of New Brunswick. Previous to this I knew nothing of the occurrence of this species in this Province except what I had learned from Mr. Boardman of its